

CASCO TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2019 @ 7:00PM

Approved 11/19/2019

Call to Order: Allan Overhiser called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Overhiser, Brenner, Winfrey, 5 interested citizens, Tom Jessup, County Commissioner, Deputy Kurt Katje and Will Hart with Rural GIG.

Absent: Macyauski, surgery (heart transplant)

Judy Graff, vacation

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Doug Nickerson discussed Lake Shore Dr on how the lake is nibbling away at bluff. Doug mentioned that last summer the Road Commission closed part of Lake Shore Dr. Doug asked his attorney as to what are the rights of the residents of Miami Park in regard to Lake Shore Dr?

His attorney came back with this "I have confirmed by reference to the Miami Park Plat that Lake Shore Dr lies within the plat as such every lot owner within the plat enjoys an irrevocable easement right over the road, separate and apart from the, status or non-status, as a public road. The easement right can be lost thru adverse possession if it is effectively blocked for a fifteen-year period. Accordingly, you and your neighbors will want to take action to ensure the encroaching neighbor does not dispossess you of that right."

Doug is concerned about the portion of the road that is closed, the two neighbors that abut this portion of the road have fences that are on the road property, which is a violation.

The options are to either have the fences removed or a simple license agreement that acknowledges that the fences are intruding on the roadway.

Allan asked Doug if he is asking the township to intervene to preserve your rights as a private property owner of Miami Park? Doug said "Yes."

This will be addressed when we have a road meeting.

Will Hart, with RURAL GIG, asked for permission to explore the feasibility of working with Casco Township to construct a tower on the Township Hall parcel. The benefits of this project include:

1. Serving the Township Hall with broadband internet, including unlimited data
2. Providing, if desired, a public wifi hotspot in the Township Hall
3. Providing residents on 71st street, 107th Ave. and Blue Star Highway with connection point for broadband service
4. Providing free wifi at the Casco Township Nature Preserve, if desired.

Our exploration will involve using a drone at the Township Hall site to measure heights and potential connectivity to our equipment mounted on other towers. The tower would require a small amount of electricity.

Our goal would be to develop a proposal with costs for construction of a tower. If the Board has guidance or directives about any proposed tower, we would appreciate knowing that at your earliest convenience.

Allan asked what area this tower would service?

Allan told Will he would work with the Township and why don't you come up with a proposal for the township board to look at.

Reports:

County:

Tom Jessup did a report on what is going on in Allegan at the Court House. The court house renovation, a three phase project, will start some-time next year. The entrance to the court house will be moved from the west side, which is the entrance now, to the center of the L shape of the building, this will be safer because prisoners can be brought right in to the court rooms. The cost of the whole project will be somewhere between 1 & 2 million. The Public Defender's office is now in the court house. County Commissioners are going to a four year term instead of 2 yrs.

Police:

Deputy Kurt Katje gave a brief report, September had 59 calls, he handled 24 of those calls, he made 48 traffic stops and wrote 4 tickets. Kurt said the car is ready to go for winter.

Clerk:

Cheri presented the minutes for the regular meeting of September 16, 2019. Lu made motion to approve the 9/16/19 minutes. Allan supported. All votes in favor. Motion carried.

Cheri made motion to amend the budget as follows;

Cemetery Fund

Expense

Acct.#209-567-752	Misc. Supplies	\$196.97
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Cheri recommended to amend this account in the amount of \$350.00.

Acct.# 101-536-709	fica-medicare	\$5.46
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Cheri recommended to amend this account to \$60.00

General Fund-Inspections

101-371-709.00	fica/medicare	\$63.27
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Cheri recommended to amend this account to \$500.00.

This is Kathy;s and Robins tax information.

Road Fund

Expense

204-446-870.00	paving	\$35,000.00
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Lu supported. All votes in favor. Motion Carried.

Cheri made motion to move the November meeting to Tuesday evening, November 19, 2019.

Lu supported. All votes in favor. Motion Carried.

Treasurer

The account balances are as follows:

General Fund	Balance	\$585,428.23
Parks Fund	Balance	\$74,957.74
Senior Services Fund	Balance	\$76,138.92
Fire Dept. Fund	Balance	\$487,158.86
Road Fund	Balance	\$247,381.89
Police Fund	Balance	\$122,272.44
Cemetery Care Fund	Balance	\$106,672.28
Collected Tax Acct	Balance	\$828,463.31
102 nd Ave. SAD	Balance	\$46,275.16
Beach Drive	Balance	\$107,260.08
Lakeview Paving	Balance	\$45,526.61
Lakeview Sewer	Balance	\$6,888.68
Lakeview Water	Balance	\$107.46
Pacific Sewer	Balance	\$7,863.23
Pacific Water	Balance	\$26,446.03
Orchard Sewer	Balance	\$23,455.67

Lu made motion o approve the following bills in the amount of \$3,910,812.84

General Fund	Orders#25781-25814	in the amount of	\$41,620.68
Collected Tax	Orders#3583-3594	in the amount of	\$3,852.993.24
Seniors Fund	Orders #757	in the amount of	\$1,400.11
Parks Fund	Orders#1241-1249	in the amount of	\$997.18
Police Fund	Orders#272-275	in the amount of	\$13,604.66
Cemetery Fund	Orders#1062	in the amount of	\$196.97

Cheri supported motion. All votes in favor. Motion Carried.

Lu asked if we are doing anything different with the dump cards? Allan said he is meeting with Republic Services next week.

Parks

Bruce was not at meeting because of a Coast Guard commitment. At the Park meeting the committee discussed a lot about the erosion and the condition of the stairs. Allan is working on an Insurance claim, he received an estimate from John Brush in the amount of \$72,500.00 to remove and repair the damaged stairs.

Miami Park stairs have held up pretty good thru the storm. If we are going to put stairs back at the preserve we are going to consider some general fund money to help with that project. If we are able to get a grant we will need to match the amount of the grant. According to pictures that Allan had, it looked like we lost almost all of the stairs at the preserve.

Senior Services

No report.

Planning Commission

David Campbell said the committee is moving forward with provisions of the By-Laws which were done about twelve years ago.

ZBA

No report. Paul was absent.

SHAWSA

Allan said we have an amendment to the Shawsa Agreement under Old Business. The big thing going on is the Center Street project. The street will be torn up all winter, hopefully opened up by Memorial Day. In this project all galvanized pipes need to be replaced, even though there is no lead detected in the water.

Library

No report.

SHAES

The replacement for Ron Wise's retirement is on-going. There is a committee of various individuals to work on the search.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **SHAWSA AGREEMENT**

This agreement is to amend the SHAWSA Contract to allow the Townships to impose a charge to reimburse for advances previously made to the South Haven/Casco Authority.
Cheri made motion to accept the Resolution. Lu supported.
Roll call Vote: Allan, yes, Lu, yes, Cheri, yes. With two absent.
Absent: Judy Graff, Paul Macyauski

A copy of this Agreement will be part of these minutes.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Zoning Text Amendment**

Adoption of Casco Township Exterior Lighting SECTION 3.41 EXERIOR LIGHTING
All outdoor lighting fixtures in the LDR, LR-A, LR-B, MDR Zoning Districts shall be installed in such a manner as to:
A. Ensure that direct light is confined to the subject property per Figure 3-4 & 3-5.

This text amendment will be part of these minutes.
Cheri made motion to accept the Zoning text to Exterior Lighting. Lu supported.
Roll call vote: Allan, yes, Cheri, yes, Lu, yes. With two absent.
Absent: Judy Graff, Paul Macyauski.

- **Snowplowing Contract for 2020**
Estimate from Horizon Landscaping in the amount of \$565.00.
Lu made motion to approve Horizon Landscaping contract for 2020. Allan supported.
All vote in favor. Motion Carried.
- **Park Committee Appointment**
Allan appointed Debbie Weaver to the Park Committee. Lu seconded.
This position is replacing Rachel Ridley.
All votes in favor. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Campbell thanked the board for supporting the exterior lighting text amendment to finally putting it to bed.

Lu made motion to adjourn. Cheri supported.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm

Minutes have been Respectively Submitted by:
Cheryl Brenner, Casco Township Clerk

Attachment #1 **SHAWSA Agreement**
Attachment #2 **Zoning Text Amendment**
Attachment #3 **Horizon Landscaping contract**